

Summary of DAT Conference Call 5/15/2007

Participants: EChappell (DWR), PJohnsen (FWS), RGartz(DFG), BOppenheim(NMFS), KFleming(DFG), JWhite(DFG), SFord(DWR), NHindman(FWS), JSnow(WWD), TBoardman(SLDMWA), THinojosa(DWR), PManza(BR), MGuerin(CCWD), DFullerton(MWD), JSpeegle(FWS), BPoytress(FWS), KCrosby(BR), PBrandes(FWS)

Conclusions and Recommendations

There were no new operational recommendations today.

VAMP started on Saturday 4/22 with a flow target of 3200cfs on the San Joaquin River at Vernalis and a combined export rate of 1500cfs. Both groups of acoustically tagged Chinook have been released.

20mm Survey Update – DFG completed Survey 5 last week. They caught 8 delta smelt larvae bringing the season total to 25. This the lowest total on record for this time period. The delta smelt were caught in the lower San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/>.

DSWG Update – The DSWG met yesterday, 5/14, to review survey results and water temperature data. Based on the 20mm survey results the group will recommend keeping Old River and Middle River combined 5-day average flows no more negative than 0 cfs at WOMET today, 5/15.

The DSWG will review the current recommendation on a weekly basis and will make a decision on whether to continue the action based on delta smelt distribution and water temperature data. The science upon which the recommendation is based will be posted in the 5/14/2007 DSWG meeting summary at http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/delta_smelt.htm. The DSWG is scheduled to meet again on Monday, May 21st.

Jim Snow (WWD) asked if the Old and Middle River target can be achieved by removing the HORB. The biologists responded that it was possible but that it will be discussed with the operators at WOMET today. It was also noted that water temperatures are not expected to exceed 25C before June 1st and that a post-VAMP action is being considered for the May 23rd to June 1st period.

Next DAT Conference Call Tuesday, 5/22/2007, 9:00 am - 11:00 am. Phone number 916/657-4111.

Chinook Monitoring

Upper Sacramento River

Red Bluff Diversion Dam – FWS sampled from 5/5 to 5/8 with the RBDD gates in and from 5/11 to 5/13 with the RBDD gates out. Fall-run passage averaged 44,000 per day, late fall passage averaged 2,000 per day, spring-run passage averaged 291 per day, and adclipped Chinook catch was about 11 per day. No winter-run length Chinook have been recovered since April 20th. FWS estimated steelhead passage at 400 per day.

The RBDD gates will go in for the season starting today, 5/15.

FWS posts biweekly reports on the Bay-Delta and Tributaries Project website, at http://baydelta.ca.gov/Php/Special_Reports/red_bluff.php

Mill Creek – The catch of Chinook remains fairly high but the catch of steelhead decreased compared to last week. DFG caught 893 fry/smolt Chinook and 5 steelhead.

Deer Creek – The catch of Chinook increased in the last week. DFG caught 1017 fry/smolt Chinook and 1 steelhead.

Butte Creek – DFG pulled the traps on May 3rd for major repairs. They are done sampling for this season.

GCID – For two days of sampling, DFG caught 378 fry/smolt and 3 adclipped Chinook. DFG pulled the traps due to debris problems.

Knights Landing – The catch of fry/smolt Chinook is decreasing and ranged from 2 to 15 per trap-day. DFG also caught 11 adclipped Chinook and 1 in-river steelhead.

Delta Monitoring

Sacramento Mid-water Trawl – 2 sample days, 16 samples. FWS caught 142 fry/smolts and 13 adclipped Chinook. No other species of interest.

Lower Sacramento River seine – 1 sample day, 6 samples. FWS caught 4 splittail and no other species of concern.

North Delta seine – 1 sample day, 8 samples. FWS caught 8 fry/smolt Chinook, 1 adclipped Chinook, and 1 splittail.

Central Delta seine – 1 sample days, 9 samples. FWS caught 27 fry/smolt Chinook, 5 adclipped Chinook, and 64 splittail.

South Delta seine – 1 sample day, 1 samples. No species of interest.

Mosssdale Kodiak Trawl – 1 sample days, 10 samples. DFG, Region 4 is now sampling 7 days per week. They caught 52 fry/smolt Chinook and no other species of interest for one day of reporting. After the DAT call, Bruce Oppenheim (NOAA) reported that 11 juvenile steelhead were observed (1-2 per day) since 5/6. Total for the year is 34, which is 3 times higher than the average.

San Joaquin River seine – 1 sample days, 7 samples. No species of interest.

Chippis Island Midwater Trawl – 6 sample days, 57 samples. FWS caught 484 fry/smolt and 132 adclipped Chinook. They also caught 1 adclipped steelhead, 1 delta smelt (female) and 3 splittail.

Bay seine – 1 sample day, 4 samples. No species of interest.

Delta Smelt Monitoring

20mm Survey Update – DFG completed Survey 5 last week. They caught 8 delta smelt larvae bringing the season total to 25. This the lowest total on record for this time period. The delta smelt were caught in the lower San Joaquin and Sacramento rivers. The results from the 20mm surveys are posted at <http://www.delta.dfg.ca.gov/data/20mm/>.

Delta Smelt Working Group Update – The DSWG met yesterday, 5/14, to review survey results and water temperature data. Based on the 20mm survey results the group will recommend keeping Old River and Middle River combined 5-day average flows no more negative than 0 cfs at WOMT today, 5/15.

The DSWG will review the current recommendation on a weekly basis and will make a decision on whether to continue the action based on delta smelt distribution and water temperature data. The science upon which the recommendation is based will be posted in the 5/14/2007 DSWG meeting summary at http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/delta_smelt.htm. The DSWG is scheduled to meet again on Monday, May 21st.

Salvage Facilities –

Chinook – No winter-run length Chinook were lost at either Facility in the last week. To date, the season total at the CVP is 1555 and the season total is 1742 at the SWP.

Steelhead – SWP salvaged 2 in-river and 4 hatchery steelhead. CVP salvaged 1 in-river and 15 hatchery steelhead. The combined salvage of in-river steelhead is 2742 for the season. The incidental take level is 3000. Salvage has dropped since the start of VAMP but biologists will continue to monitor salvage data, Mossdale trawl data, and water temperatures to determine if a post-VAMP action is necessary.

Delta smelt – CVP observed the first juvenile delta smelt of the season on 5/10 for a salvage of 12 delta smelt. After the call Russ Gartz (DFG) received positive identification of 5 more delta smelt that were salvaged between 5/11 and 5/13. The salvage at CVP for the week was 72 and the season total for delta smelt salvage is 144.

Splittail – None.

Longfin smelt – None.

Sturgeon – None.

The DFG Salvage Database can be accessed at this ftp site:
<ftp://ftp.delta.dfg.ca.gov/salvage/>.

Turbidity data for Clifton Court forebay is available at:
<http://cdec2.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryFx?CLC>.

VAMP Update

VAMP started on Saturday 4/22 with a flow target of 3200cfs on the San Joaquin River at Vernalis and a combined export rate of 1500cfs. Both groups of acoustically tagging Chinook have been released. The first group was released on May 3rd and May 4th. The second group was released on May 10th and 11th. One hundred tagged Chinook were released at each station. In addition some fish with dummy tags were held for 48 hours at both the Durham Ferry and Mossdale release sites. VAMP will continue until May 22nd.

Agricultural Barriers

HORB – The barrier is closed with three culverts open to protect downstream water levels. Removal of the barrier is scheduled for the week of May 21st but the Fisheries Agencies may request a change.

Old & Middle River – The barriers are closed and the culverts are operating tidally.

Grantline – The barrier was closed on May 10th.

The weekly updates on barrier operations are now available at:

http://baydeltaoffice.water.ca.gov/sdb/tbp/index_tbp.cfm.

Operations

SWP -

CCFB – 700 cfs.

Oroville – 1,750 cfs.

X2 – ~ 74 km.

E/I - 14-day = 10.2%.

San Luis - ~751 taf. SWP share of San Luis capacity is 1,062 taf.

EWA - The current debt in San Luis is approximately 195-200taf. VAMP is currently controlling operations and EWA is accruing debt at about 0-2taf per day.

The preliminary estimated cost of a post-VAMP action with combined exports of 1100cfs from May 23rd to May 31st is approximately 72 taf or 8taf/day.

CVP -

Tracy PP – 800 cfs.

DCC – Closed.

Trinity – 2,900 cfs. The BR will ramp down to 450cfs by June 25th.

Clear Creek – 200 cfs.

Keswick – 11,500 cfs. Releases were increased to help fill the Red Bluff pool.

Releases will decrease to 9,800cfs tomorrow, 5/16.

Nimbus – 1,500 cfs.

Goodwin – 1,500 cfs. The BR will begin ramping down on 5/21.

San Luis – 605 taf. CVP share of San Luis capacity is 966 taf.

Flows

Sacramento River at Freeport ~ 8,900 cfs and decreasing slowly.

Fremont Weir ~ 0.

San Joaquin River at Vernalis ~ 3,200 cfs.

Delta Outflow ~ 9,600 cfs. The 3-day average is 9,400 cfs.

Old and Middle Rivers ~ combined -1413 cfs as of 5/12/07; 5-day average is -1274 cfs.

Delta Water Quality

Salinity levels are good in the western Delta and have been improving in the south Delta except at the Old River near Tracy Road Bridge station.

May Water Quality Standards

Collinsville X2 standard – The standard must be met for the full 31 days by a maximum daily EC of 2.64, a maximum 14-day running average EC of 2.64 or 3-day outflow of 7,100cfs.

Chippis Island X2 standard –The standard must be met for 1 day by a maximum daily EC of 2.64, a maximum 14-day running average EC of 2.64 or 3-day outflow of 11,400cfs. This standard has been met.

Port Chicago was not triggered for May.

E/I Ratio – $\leq 35\%$.

Contra Costa Canal – CI ≤ 250 mg/L. In addition, CI ≤ 150 mg/L for 165 days per year. This portion of the standard has been met for 116 days so far.

Western Delta – EC ≤ 0.45 at Emmaton, Jersey Point, Terminous, and San Andreas stations.

South Delta – 30-day average EC ≤ 0.7

Suisun Marsh = EC ≤ 11

Erin Chappell

Environmental Scientist

DWR-DES

901 P Street, P.O. Box 942836

Sacramento, CA 95814-6424

Phone (916) 651-0169

Fax (916) 651-9563